

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend claim 3 as follows. Only claims 1 and 3 are pending. Deletions appear in ~~strike through font~~, and additions are underlined.

Complete listing of claims

1. (Previously presented) A method to determine whether a test substance inhibits or acts as a ligand of at least one binding domain of a protein, comprising:

incubating said test substance with a mixture,

wherein said mixture comprises:

- a) the protein,
- b) at least one marker substrate, and
- c) at least one substrate; and

determining whether the test substance inhibits or acts as a ligand of at least one binding domain of the protein by comparing the conversion of the marker substrate in the presence of the test substance with the corresponding conversion in control mixtures A and B,

wherein the protein contains at least one catalytic domain and at least one binding domain,

wherein the marker substrate is converted by said at least one catalytic domain of the protein,

wherein the substrate is capable of binding to said at least one catalytic domain and to said at least one binding domain of the protein,

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wherein the control mixture A comprises the protein and the marker substrate; and the control mixture B comprises the protein, the substrate, and the marker substrate, and
wherein the test substance is an inhibitor or ligand of said at least one binding domain of the protein if the conversion of the marker substrate in the presence of the test substance is between the values obtained with control mixtures A and B.

Claim 2 (Cancelled)

3. (Currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the protein is collagenase, the substrate is collagen, and the marker substrate is (7-methoxycoumarin-4-yl)acetyl-Pro-Leu-Gly-Leu-(3-[2,4-dinitrophenyl]-L-2,3-diaminopropionyl)-Ala-Arg-NH₂ (SEQ ID NO: 1).

Claims 4-17 (Cancelled)

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